

# Medical Soldiers OUTLOOK

Vol. 18, No. 3

Army Medical Department Enlisted Training News



Fall 2001

## From the Top

The most precious resource for any Army is its soldiers. Providing care for soldiers injured in battle conserves the fighting strength and gives soldiers the resolve to carry on. In every conflict, men and women have answered the call of their fallen comrades. One word is synonymous with that call: "MEDIC!" When this word is spoken on the battlefield, medical personnel spring into action, many times at significant risk to themselves. Their action, coupled with their medical knowledge and skill, has endeared them to the combat soldier. Soldiers know that their chances of survival are best with a medic at their side. The 91W program seeks to improve the medical soldiers' knowledge and skills.

The Health Care Specialist (91W) program is the Army Medical Department's top priority in support of the Army Transformation. The program combines two Military Occupational Skills (MOSs) – Medical Specialist (91B) and Licensed Practical Nurse (91C) – and all of the Additional Skill Identifiers (ASIs) associated with each into one MOS. Training standards have been increased from 10 weeks for the 91B to 16 weeks for the 91W. Included is the requirement to obtain Emergency Medical Technician – Basic qualification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

This elevated baseline qualification, additional training, and requalification requirements create a more capable, confident, and competent Health Care Specialist able to perform combat medic duties as well as provide patient care in a minimal care environment. It also allows 91Ws to serve in leadership positions, making them more competitive for promotion. With the primary MOS 91W, soldiers may request additional training and specialization in seven ASIs, affording them greater assignment diversity and experience.

The 91W Health Care Specialist concept is based on future force requirements and is the product of sequential force designs from Medical Force 2000 and the Medical Reengineering Initiative through Force XXI and the Objective Force. Operational missions require a medic with more trauma and stabilization skills. The medic must be more autonomous due to operations on a dispersed battlefield, longer evacuation legs to supporting hospitals, and potentially longer delays at the hospital awaiting evacuation.

These changes, along with reduced inpatient care requirements, resulted in a subsequent reduction in authorizations for the 91C. This reduction, along with the 100% NCO structure

for the MOS, difficulty in accessions, and stagnating promotions, made 91C a very difficult MOS to manage and sustain.

Combining various MOSs is not a new experience for the AMEDD. In 1995, the AMEDD successfully realigned six MOSs with 91Bs as ASIs. By combining the 91Bs and 91Cs, the new alignment will create a confident 91W.

In transforming the existing population of 91Bs and 91Cs into 91Ws, there are numerous examples of how the AMEDD is working to produce outstanding Health Care Specialists. One is the Joint Medical Training Center at Fort Lewis, WA, where 91Ws and their counterparts from other services learn to work together in crisis situations. This fosters greater understanding, enhanced learning, and camaraderie.

The training and requirements for the 91W will yield a more versatile, better trained Army medic. One thing is certain – if an American soldier is wounded in battle and cries out "MEDIC" – a more capable 91W will answer the call.



**James M. Aplin**  
CSM, USAMEDCOM

The AMEDD has developed the 91W Tracking Module ([www.mods.army.mil](http://www.mods.army.mil)) as a component of the Army's well-proven Medical Protection System (MEDPROS) to provide an easy to use, secure tool for tracking and managing 91W training, transition, and sustainment. At the MODS/MEDPROS homepage, click on the red 91W circle located at the bottom right. Then click on "Request access to 91W Tracking System" to register. Commanders or First Sergeants must approve unit personnel who request "Duty Entry." After completing the on-line registration, print the authorization request form, provide the requesting data, get your commander or first sergeant's signature and fax it to (703) 681-4983 or DSN 761-4983; expect a response within 72 hours.

The 91W Tracking Module is on line; units should now begin tracking the transition data. Commanders and supervisors should become familiar with it and register themselves or their designated representatives as well as appointing data entry individuals in their organizations.

### **Expert Field Medical Competition**

An Expert Field Medical Competition (EFMC) will be held 8-12 Oct 01 at Camp Bullis, TX. It is open to all service members who hold the Expert Field Medical Badge or Combat Medic Badge and desire to be the "Best of the Best." The EFMC is currently governed by DA Pam 40-20 that includes policies and procedures.

The competition includes Army Physical Fitness Test; Written Test; Weapons Qualification (NBC, Night Fire); Litter Obstacle Course; Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation; Night Land Navigation; Combat Medic Lanes/Day Land Navigation/Common Tasks; and 12 Mile Road March.

A Memorandum of Instruction for the 2001 EFMC and DA Pam 40-20 can be downloaded from the EFMC Test Control Office web site at <http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/dts/efmbhome.htm>. For more information, contact: SGM Sifuentes, or MSG Thomas, DSN 471-4404/5718, (210) 221-4404/5718, FAX 5765, e-mail, [juan.sifuentes@cen.amedd.army.mil](mailto:juan.sifuentes@cen.amedd.army.mil), or [cornell.thomas@cen.amedd.army.mil](mailto:cornell.thomas@cen.amedd.army.mil).

### **Medical Correspondence Course update**

Students enrolled in the AMEDD Center and School Correspondence Course Program should ensure that the scan sheet matches the subcourse number and edition on the subcourse cover. If the number and edition do not agree, notify the Nonresident Instruction Branch immediately. Use only the booklet/examination that is mailed to you. Once a test is failed, the student will receive a score of 70% on a satisfactorily completed retest.

Initial and subsequent enrollments must now be made at Internet site <http://atrrs.army.mil>. To review medical course offerings, click on Course Catalog in the upper right corner. Enter School Code 555 to review only medical subjects. Copy the course number and title for the course desired. Then, return to the ATRRS homepage by using the "back" arrow. Scroll down the right side for the channel SELF DEVELOPMENT and click on it to open the application form and follow on-screen instructions. Contact: Nonresident Instruction Branch, 1-800-344-2380, DSN 471-5877 or (210) 221-5877.

### **Training opportunities announced**

There is a shortage in filling selected school training seats. Help build and maintain enlisted strength by applying for one of the following openings announced in the PERSCOM AMEDD Recruiting Bulletin: Equipment Repairer (91A) and Respiratory Specialist (91V). Qualified soldiers can request one of these MOSs as a reenlistment option if in reenlistment window (must meet reenlistment priorities). Soldiers not in reenlistment window can submit DA 4187 requesting to reclassify to MOS 91A or 91V. Submit request with all required documents to the local MILPO. Faxed requests are not accepted.

The following Additional Skill Identifier (ASI) and Skill Qualification Identifier (SQI) training seats are also open: Practical Nurse (ASI M6); 91W ASI Training that includes Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Orthopedic Specialty, ENT Specialty, and Cardiovascular Specialty; Dental Laboratory Specialty (ASI N5); Preventive Dentistry (ASI X2); and Flight Medic (SQI F). Active Army soldiers may apply for ASI or SQI training by submitting DA Form 4187 through the local MILPO (no faxed copies accepted). The packet must include the 4187, 2A, 2-1 (or Standard Installation/Division Personnel System Enlisted Record Brief), letter of recommendation evaluating soldiers potential and ability to complete the requested course, and any additional documents required for the specific course soldier is applying for.

For specific course information and requirements, check PERSCOM online. Visit the web page at [www.perscom.army.mil/EPHealthServ/hs.Itr.htm](http://www.perscom.army.mil/EPHealthServ/hs.Itr.htm). Contact: SFC Ronan, DSN 221-0206, (703) 325-0206, or e-mail [ronang@hoffman.army.mil](mailto:ronang@hoffman.army.mil).

OUTLOOK is published by the U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School. Articles are intended for the AMEDD enlisted soldier and can be submitted to: Academy of Health Sciences, MCCS HSA Outlook, 2250 Stanley Road Ste 250, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-6150. Questions can be directed to the Editor at DSN 471-7326. 13,000 copies of the newsletter are distributed through official channels.

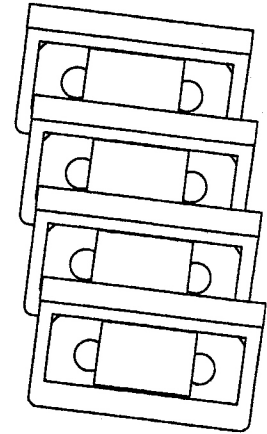
Use of funds for printing OUTLOOK was approved 25 May 1984 by Commander, Health Services Command, IAW AR 25-30. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Army or of the AMEDDC&S.  
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## AMEDDD videotapes available

The following videotapes are available for use in your unit training through the Internet at <http://dodimagery.afis.osd.mil> where you can place your order. They are also available at your supporting Training Support Center or Visual Information Support Center. This list contains the production identification number, title, and running time:

### *Performance Power – The Nutrition Connection:*

- 710856 Getting Started, 18:28
- 710860 Building a Performance Diet, 12:46
- 710859 Performance Choices, 14:55
- 710858 Fluids Your Key to Performance, 14:07
- 710861 Nutritional Supplements, 12:46
- 710857 High Caliber Nutrition in the Field, 16:28
  
- 710910 Army Medical Dept Field Feeding with Operational Rations, 18:40
- 709772 Patient Interview to Obtain Food Tolerance, 07:18
- 709773 Preparing Patients Nourishments, 10:56
- 709771 Patient Food Delivery System, 18:18



For USAMEDCOM personnel needing information on specific medical videotapes, access our web page at [www.cs.amedd.army.mil](http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil) or contact: AMEDDC&S Health Sciences Visual Information Division, DSN 471-3111 or (210) 221-3111.

## Health Physics Specialist Course

Radiological hazards, such as medical x-ray systems and radioactive commodities, are common aspects of soldier's daily duties. Deployed soldiers may also encounter some of the 500,000 radioactive sources used worldwide in industry and medicine, or may even encounter spent depleted uranium munitions left behind on a battlefield. During the Kosovo peacekeeping operation NATO forces deployed medical and dental x-ray systems, continued the maintenance of radioactive commodities such as fire-control devices and chemical agent alarms, encountered industrial radiation sources and occupied depleted uranium contaminated battlefields. The Army's Preventive Medicine Specialists must be prepared to protect U.S. soldiers confronting a wide range of radiological hazards in environments ranging from garrison to the battlefield.

Every Preventive Medicine Specialist, MOS 91S, receives 1 week of basic radiological training during the 16-week Preventive Medicine Specialist Course. This training enables Preventive Medicine Specialists to recognize radiological hazards and collect environmental radiological data and samples. Selected Preventive Medicine Specialists earn the "N4" designator as Health Physics Specialist. The N4s can design radiological surveys, are proficient with a variety of specialized radiological equipment, and understand the application of U.S. radiation protection standards and regulations. The N4s can also certify many deployable medical and dental x-ray systems as safe for use on patients. The Preventive Medicine Specialists and N4s, working together, provide radiological support across the spectrum of radiological hazards and military operations.

Preventive Medicine Specialists seeking a rewarding challenge should consider earning the N4 designator by completing the Health Physics Specialist Course. Graduates from the intensive 12-week Health Physics Specialist Course are generally assigned to Army Hospitals and Medical Centers, where their skills are in short supply. Every Army medical facility performing Nuclear Medicine or Radiation Therapy must have N4s to perform routine radiological surveys, process radioactive packages, manage radioactive waste, provide radiation safety training, and manage the personnel radiation dosimetry program.

The Health Physics Specialist Course is conducted twice each year at the AMEDD Center and School. Preventive Medicine Specialists in the ranks of E-1 through E-4 (E-5 with waiver) with a GT score of 110 or higher are eligible to apply. Interested Preventive Medicine Specialists are encouraged to contact their local education center to take the Basic Mathematics and Science Proficiency Test (BMST) prior to applying for the course. Soldiers performing well on the BMST are generally successful in the challenging Health Physics Specialist Course.

For more information, contact: SSG Regina Miller, DSN 471-6011 or (210) 221-6011.

### **Medical Correspondence Courses/Subcourses Deleted**

The following AMEDD Center and School correspondence courses have been closed to new enrollments:

- AMEDD S2/3 Course, 081-S2/3 (as of 1 May 2001)
- Medical Supply Specialist Sustainment Course, 081-76J
- Dental Basic Management Course, 081-91EMGT

The following subcourses have been deleted from the AMEDD Center and School correspondence course program. Students with any of these subcourses on hand should complete them as soon as possible to receive credit for work effort.

MD0053	The Field Sanitation Team I
MD0054	The Field Sanitation Team II
MD0704	Inspection Records and Reports
MD0706	Inspection Concepts
MD0707	Statistical Sampling I
MD0709	Packaging, Packing, Unitizing, and Marking of Subsistence
MD0760	Medical Materiel Orientation
MD0761	Medical Materiel Publications
MD0762	Property Control Procedures for Medical Units
MD0763	Installation Medical Supply Procedures
MD0764	Medical Materiel Storage and Handling Procedures
MD0765	Miscellaneous Supply and Service Procedures

**Contact:** Nonresident Instruction Branch, 1-800-344-2380, DSN 471-5877, or (210) 221-5877.

### **Linking 91W to the Army Vision**

The Army Vision, announced by the Army Chief of Staff in Oct 99, encompasses people, readiness, and transformation. On 1 Oct 01, the 91W Health Care Specialist, as the Army's second largest MOS, will have a key impact on all three aspects of this vision.

Transformation of the 91W medic calls for a system of training, sustainment, and management that will enable the medic to be proficient whether assigned to a fixed facility or a rapidly deployable combat unit. The training includes longer training cycles, clinical rotations, National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (NREMT-B) certification, improved field training exercise, advanced training in trauma assessment, airway management, medications, and shock management. A standardized sustainment system for critical medical skills is being developed in the form of a Combat Medic Skills Validation Test. Sustainment starts with training and testing of basic individual medical skills and increases to more complex or crew level skills, which assists in NREMT-B recertification. The Medical Occupation Data System at <http://www.mods> will be used to manage the training, certification, and sustainment of the 91W soldier.

As the Army transforms, the AMEDD will be there to increase and improve the medic's technology base using Telemedicine. The 91W Health Care Specialist will provide support as we meet the goal of the Army Vision to become more responsive, deployable, agile, versatile, lethal, survivable, and sustainable. The 91W Branch has relocated and is now the Department of Combat Medic Training. For POC or other information, access the 91W web page at <http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/91W>.